



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,378	06/15/2005	Philip Victor Peplow	PEPL3001/JEK/ESS	4712
23364	7590	01/23/2007	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			TSAY, MARSHA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1656	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/23/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/517,378	PEPLOW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marsha M. Tsay	1656	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 43-53 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 43-45 and 49-53 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 46-48 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/24/05; 10/25/05.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____

Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 46-48, in the reply filed on November 29, 2006 is acknowledged. Claims 1-42 were previously canceled by Applicants. Claims 43-45, 49-53 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner because they are drawn to non-elected inventions. Claims 46-48 are currently under examination.

The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 1656.

Priority: The benefit date is June 10, 2002, for the purpose of prior art.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 1 of the specification, the priority data needs to be updated with a cross reference paragraph to related applications.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 46-48 are objected to because of the following informalities: claims 46-48 need to have the article "A" preceding the claim such that the claims recite "A product" or "A process"; in claim 47, the term "them" should be corrected to "then"; in claim 48, line 2, an "a" should be inserted before "reducing agent" and in line 3, a "the" should be inserted before "reducing agent". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 46 recites processed to form a porous spongy material. It is unclear what is meant by the term "processed" because there is no explicit definition provided in the claim or specification. Further, claim 46 recites in a weight ratio of S-sulfonated keratin to hydroxyapatite ranging from 1:0.1 to 1:2 S-sulfonated keratin to hydroxyapatite. This phrase is confusing. The second set of S-sulfonated keratin to hydroxyapatite should be deleted and the phrase can be amended to recite "in a weight ratio of S-sulfonated keratin to hydroxyapatite ranging from 1:0.1 to 1:2, respectively S-sulfonated keratin to hydroxyapatite."

Claims 47-48 are included in this rejection because they are dependent on claim 46.

The claims appear to be free of art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marsha M. Tsay whose telephone number is 571-272-2938. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Kathleen Kerr Bragdon can be reached on 571-272-0931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 12, 2007

M. Monshiri
MARYAM MONSHIPOURI, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER